

Message Text

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16

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 EUR-12 SAB-01 SAM-01 SAJ-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 AID-05 OMB-01

/099 W

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R 281514Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2515

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EG UR LY TU

SUBJ: CAIRO DAILY REPORTS NEW SOVIET-LIBYAN COOPERATION;

MFA OFFICIAL ON LIBYA

1. WHILE MOST OF CAIRO PRESS CONCENTRATING ON INTERNAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS, APRIL 28 GUMHURIYYA TRAINED ITS SIGHTS ON LIBYA. CITING " TRAVELERS" AND UNNAMED LIBYAN SOURCES, DAILY REPORTED THAT SOVIETS HAVE "OCCUPIED" UQBA IBN NAFI' AIRPBASE NEAR TRIPOLI AND HOISTED SOVIET FLAG WHILE LIBYAN OFFICERS EVICTED BY QADHAFI. ARTICLE ALSO CHARGED THAT RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS OVER TUNISIA NOW OPERATING OUT OF NEW RUSSIAN-BUILT HANGERS IN TRIPOLI AND BENGHAZI WHILE SOVIET SOLDIERS ALSO ALLEGEDLY SUPERVISING TORTURE OF LIBYAN OFFICERS QADKHAFI CONSIDERS DISLOYAL.

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2. ARTICLE GOES ON TO DEPICT QADHAFI AS INCREASINGLY PARANOID, REDUCED TO TAKING EXTREME PRECAUTIONS TO INSURE HIS PERSONAL SAFETY.

3. MEANWHILE, MFA OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF IN RECENT CONVERSATION THAT MINISTRY VIEWS RESUMPTION OF LIBYAN-JORDANIAN TIES AS EVIDENCE OF QADHAFI'S ISOLATION IN NORTH AFRICA AND OF HIS DIPLOMATIC DESPERATION. FAILING IN HIS MAGHREB POLICIES, OFFICIAL SAID, QADHAFI ENTICED BY ACTIVITY FURTHER EAST AND LOOKING TO INSERT HIMSELF FOR MISCHIEVOUS PURPOSES. ACCORDING TO EGYPTIAN, QADHAFI SEEN TO BE TRYING TO ENGINEER ISOLATION OF GOE BY KEEPING JORDAN AND EGYPT APART. HE PROFESSED INABILITY UNDERSTAND HUSAYN'S MOTIVES FOR DECISION TO RESUME RELATIONS AND VOLUNTEERED GOJ WOULD DOUBTLESSLY BE DISAPPOINTED IF COUNTING ON SERIOUS LIBYAN FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS.

4. SAME OFFICIAL SAID HE MEMBER OF COMMITTEE THAT HAD CONSIDERED HOW TO REACT TO RECENT "OUTRAGEOUS" INCIDENT OF LIBYAN AMBASSADOR AND MACHINE GUN (CAIRO 5345). CONSIDERING OPTIONS, SOURCE SAID, COMMITTEE HAD DECIDED TO RECOMMEND ONLY STERN WARNING BECAUSE IT CONVINCED THAT SEVERE REPRISALS CERTAIN AGAINST ITS OWN DIPLOMATS AND OTHER EGYPTIANS LIVING IN LIBYA. COMMENT: WE CANNOT COMMENT ON VERACITY OF UQBA IBN NAFI AND OTHER SOVIET INVOLVEMENT STORIES, BUT SOUND MIKE RECENT LIBYAN CHARGES THAT BIZERTE NOW A US BASE. WHILE SERACH FOR FRESH MATERIAL FOR ANTI-LIBYAN PROPAGANDA EFFORT MAY ITTUDE ON REALM OF FANTASTIC, THIS MAKES LITTLE DIFFERENCE TO EGYPTIANS, WHO SEEM TO RELISH ANY UNFAVORABLE REPORTS ON "SPOILED CHILD" NEXT DOOR.
EILTS

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